



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Patrick Administration Names George Darey to 7th Fisheries and Wildlife Board Term *Lenox Native Sworn in by Secretary Bowles Today*

LENOX – Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles today administered the oath of office to George “Gige” Darey as a member of the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board. A Lenox resident, Darey was first appointed in 1978 and has chaired the seven-member panel since 1981.

Created by the Legislature in 1948, the board includes members from each of the state’s five Wildlife Districts, as well as two at-large members interested in the protection, research and management of wildlife, including endangered species, one of whom must be a wildlife biologist. Governor Patrick reappointed Darey as the board’s Western Wildlife District representative. The Fisheries and Wildlife board is charged with adopting policies and regulations to protect and manage the Commonwealth’s wildlife based on sound ecological science and public input.

Darey’s leadership was celebrated today by state and local officials, fellow board members, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife staff, sportsmen’s organizations, and environmentalists who gathered for his swearing-in.

“Both in the Berkshires and on Beacon Hill, George Darey is legendary for his ability to get things done,” Secretary Bowles said. “Governor Patrick and I share his commitment to wise stewardship of the Commonwealth’s wildlife species and habitat, and we look forward to making great strides together in the months and years ahead.”

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“George Darey has been one of the most important figures in the environmental community of Massachusetts in the last 25 years, and probably the most important sportsman-conservationist of his generation,” said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin. “I am thrilled that Governor Patrick has chosen to reappoint him to the Fisheries and Wildlife Board for an unprecedented seventh term, and look forward to working with George, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on the many conservation opportunities and challenges that await us.”

Darey taught science, history, reading and study skills at Mahar Regional High School in Orange and Waconah Regional High School in Dalton until retiring from a 25-year teaching career in 1983. Active in sporting and conservation issues since returning from the Korean War, Darey served on the Lenox Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen, and was a charter member of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, a founding member of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and director of Sportsmen for Land Preservation. He was a founder of the Housatonic River Initiative, which played a key role in the cleanup of PCBs from the river. The Department of Fish and Game renamed the 818-acre George L. Darey Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area in his honor in 2004. In 1996, Darey’s leadership in environmental stewardship was rewarded by a US Environmental Protection Agency award.

Also active in historical and cultural preservation, Darey helped secure a permanent home for the non-profit Shakespeare & Company of Lenox, where today’s swearing-in ceremony took place.

“The restoration of Massachusetts’ wildlife is due in no small part to the efforts of George Darey,” said Wayne MacCallum, Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. “The Commonwealth is incredibly fortunate to have a person like George, who exhibits an extraordinary personal commitment to the conservation of Massachusetts’ natural resources.”

Since joining the Fisheries and Wildlife Board in 1978, Darey has placed a premium on land and habitat protection. His leadership was vital to establishing the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and securing passage of the Wildlands Stamp Act to provide funds from fishing and hunting license sales for acquisition of open space. Darey was also instrumental in forming the “Guns and Roses Coalition,” an alliance of sportsmen and environmentalists that generated public support for open space bond measures enabling Massachusetts to permanently protect over 300,000 acres open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other non-motorized recreation.

Darey was appointed to a five-year term that expires in October, 2012.

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